21. A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

b) a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

c) a biologically-active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and

d) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

22. An isolated polypeptide of claim 21, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

23. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 21.

24. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 22.

25. An isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 23.

27. A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 26.

28. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 21, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

29. A method of claim 28, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

30. An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 21.

31. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

b) a naturally-occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),

d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b) and

e) a ribonucleotide equivalent of a)-d).

32. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleic acids of claim 31.

33. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

34. A method of claim 33, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

35. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide

having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

36. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

37. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

38. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 to a compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

39. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

40. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 24, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, and

b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide.